

Proverbs 3:13-35
Women's Bible Study, March 4, 2026
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Wise Person, Happy Person

13 How **blessed** is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding.

14 For her profit is **better** than the profit of **silver** and her gain **better** than fine **gold**.

15 She is **more precious than jewels**; And **nothing** you desire **compares** with her.

16 **Long life** is in her right hand; In her left hand are **riches and honor**.

17 Her ways are **pleasant ways** and all her paths are **peace**

18 She is a **tree of life** to those who take hold of her, and **happy** are all who hold her fast

The first six verses of our passage today are full of the rewards of finding godly wisdom. I have highlighted the delights above. As we have read through these verses we should be thinking "Who wouldn't want these blessings?" Yet, sadly, most people would rather subscribe to the world's version of wisdom. The wisdom described in Proverbs is determined by and given by God. He alone is the source and author of wisdom.

The blessings of wisdom:

- Better than silver and fine gold
- More precious than jewels
- Nothing compares
- Long life
- Riches and honor
- Pleasant ways
- Peace
- A tree of life

I am reminded of the Beatitudes found in Matthew 5. That passage also gives instruction on how to be happy (blessed). We read that the blessed are the ones that:

- Are poor in spirit
- Mourn
- Gentle
- Hunger and thirst for righteousness
- Merciful
- Pure in heart
- Peacemakers
- Persecuted for the sake of righteousness
- Willing to be insulted

So, the way of wisdom as found in Proverbs is found in these difficult (seemingly) character traits? Yes!! The way of God's wisdom is so different from the way of the world. These attitudes are not what we find normally in society in general. The character traits that bring happiness are only found through the Spirit of God and are not found in the natural man. We can trust that God's Word is true, and the blessings found in Proverbs 3 can be attained by following the words of Jesus in Matthew 5.

Galatians 5:19-23

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

We will only find true happiness by following God's path as found in His word. We can be caught up in seeking happiness in things other than what God has stated. We should examine ourselves for what we truly believe will bring us happiness. Do we think that if only we had a little more money we would be happy? What about a different stage of life such as grown kids or having our kids back home? What about a relationship change such as having a husband or not having a husband? If we think any of these things will bring happiness, then our trust is not where it should be. God orchestrates our life and we can trust that the phase of life that we are in He has allowed and is using it for our good and His glory.

Hebrews 13:5

Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU,"

1 Timothy 6:6

But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

The Lord's wisdom is like treasure. If a person were to stumble upon buried treasure, their excitement would be huge. They would sell all they had to buy that land to obtain the treasure.

Matthew 13:44

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid again; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

The wisdom from God is also compared to the Tree of Life. The sin of Adam and Eve caused them to be expelled from the garden and not have free access to the Tree of Life. We have been given access to Eternal Life through the great mercy and kindness of God when he sent his Son to pay the penalty for Adam's sin, my

sin and the sin of the whole world. Only through Jesus can we eat of the fruit of the Tree of Life. Indeed, the wisdom from God is precious.

No precious jewels or earthly treasures are worthy to be compared with true wisdom, whether the concerns of time or eternity be considered. We must make wisdom our business; we must venture all in it, and be willing to part with all for it. This Wisdom is the Lord Jesus Christ and his salvation, sought and obtained by faith and prayer. Were it not for unbelief, remaining sinfulness, and carelessness, we should find all our ways pleasantness, and our paths peace, for his are so; but we too often step aside from them, to our own hurt and grief. Christ is that Wisdom, by whom the worlds were made. Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary

- What is keeping us from these blessings?
- Are there things that we think we need to be happy other than what God has given us?

Security

19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth, by understanding He established the heavens.

20 By His knowledge the deeps were broken up and the skies drip with dew.

21 My son, let them not vanish from your sight; Keep sound wisdom and discretion,

22 So they will be life to your soul and adornment to your neck.

23 Then you will walk in your way securely and your foot will not stumble.

24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid; When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

25 Do not be afraid of sudden fear nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes;

26 For the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being caught.

The wisdom of the Lord gives security. Truly, if we obtain his wisdom and follow it with all our heart there is no reason for anxiety. We can be confident of His goodness in our life. In our humanness, we may wonder if what we are going through is truly good, but God is so much bigger than us. He sees the whole picture. He is eternal. He is not bound by time like we are. I believe that most or all of us in this room know and believe this but at times it can be so hard to put our trust where it belongs. Our sanctification, the process of being transformed into the image of Christ, is way more important than our comfort. In fact, I'm sure that often God deliberately allows our discomfort so we can trust and apply God's wisdom rather than our own.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

Romans 8:28-29

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.

Philippians 1:6

For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 1:6-7

In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

James 1:2-4

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

God is all wise and all knowing. He created the Heavens and the Earth with the word of His mouth. We can rest confidently in His ability to keep His promises. Sisters, trusting in our good, kind and all-powerful God is wise! This is the wisdom we should pursue. The wisdom of the world is not valuable in an eternal sense. There is nothing wrong with wanting to know how things work or even knowing trivia but those are nothing compared to God and His wisdom which is found in His Word.

Psalm 3:5

I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustains me.

Psalm 4:8

In peace I will both lie down and sleep, For You alone, O LORD, make me to dwell in safety.

Wicked versus Righteous

27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it," When you have it with you.

29 Do not devise harm against your neighbor, while he lives securely beside you.

30 Do not contend with a man without cause, if he has done you no harm.

31 Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways.

32 For the devious are an abomination to the LORD; But He is intimate with the upright.

33 The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the dwelling of the righteous.

34 Though He scoffs at the scoffers, Yet He gives grace to the afflicted.

35 The wise will inherit honor, but fools display dishonor.

In this section, the author spells out some wicked behaviors that the wise person will avoid. These are:

- Withholding good
- Devising harm
- Contending without cause
- Envyng violent people
- Scoffing

The people who display such behaviors are given the label “fools”.

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Fools (atheists, who have no regard to God) despise wisdom and instruction; having no dread at all of God's wrath, nor any desire of his favour, they will not give you thanks for telling them what they may do to escape his wrath and obtain his favour. Those who say to the Almighty, Depart from us, who are so far from fearing him that they set him at defiance, can excite no surprise if they desire not the knowledge of his ways, but despise that instruction. Matthew Henry's Commentary

Matthew 5:43-46

"You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"

We have already talked about the reward of striving for the wisdom of God. It is blessing or happiness, the absence of anxiety and eternal life. All that awaits a fool, one who rejects God and His wisdom, is constant striving for satisfaction in this life and eternal destruction in the next life. These last few verses in chapter 3 are stand-alone proverbs contrasting evil behavior and godly behavior. These behaviors are talked about in other places in scripture also.

Withholding good:

Galatians 6:10

So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Leviticus 19:13

You shall not oppress your neighbor, nor rob him. The wages of a hired man are not to remain with you all night until morning.

Devising harm:

Romans 13:10

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Contending without cause:

Romans 12:18

If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

James 1:20

...for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.

Envyng violent people:

Psalms 37:1

Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers.

Scoffing:

James 4:6

But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, "GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."

These principles are a short list of ways to love versus ways to not love. As we know, in the New Testament we were given a new command. We are not only to love our brothers and sisters but our neighbors as well.

John 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Romans 13:10

Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Galatians 5:14

For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

We need to check our hearts. Do we value love toward others and make it a priority or do we demand our rights.

Philippians 2:3-4

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

